

Amendment and Response

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Serial No.: 09/560,268

Confirmation No.: 2517

Filed: April 26, 2000

For: COMPOSITION FOR SELECTIVELY ETCHING AGAINST COBALT SILICIDE

Remarks

The Examiner's Answer mailed June 12, 2003 has been received and reviewed. In response to the Answer, Applicants are filing a Request for Continued Examination and submits herewith an Amendment and Response to accompany such a Request.

Claims 64, 68, 71-73, 76, 89, 92, and 94 have been amended. Claims 77-88 and 91 have been canceled in this amendment while claims 1-63, 66, and 96 have been canceled previously. Therefore, the pending claims are claims 64-65, 67-76, 89-90, and 92-95. Reconsideration and withdrawal of previous rejections are respectfully requested in view of the amendment and remarks provided herein.

Claim Amendments

Various claims have been amended to include temperature ranges applicable to the etch rates set forth in the claims. Such language is supported by the specification at least on page 9, lines 5-14.

Further, various claims have been amended to include a range end limitation for the etching composition that is 1:1:15 (mineral acid:peroxide:deionized water). This range end limitation is supported by the specification at least on page 10, lines 7-14.

The 35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

The Examiner previously rejected claims 68-70, 72-75, 77-81, 83-86, 88-91, 93 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Shiramizu (U.S. Patent No. 6,116,254). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, to move the application to issuance, Applicants have amended the range end limitations with respect to various claims (e.g., independent claims 68, 73, and 89) such that the solution taught by Shiramizu (i.e., alleged by the Examiner to be a 1:1:6 ratio solution) is clearly outside of the ranges claimed. As such, claims 68-70, 72-75, 89-90, and 93 which include such amended range end limitations, directly or indirectly, are not anticipated by Shiramizu.

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Further, this rejection is moot with respect to claims 77-81, 83-86, 88 and 91 which have been canceled.

The 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 64-65 and 67-95 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Nakano (U.S. Patent No. 6,110,839) and Shiramizu (U.S. Patent No. 6,116,254).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, to move the application to issuance, Applicants have amended the range end limitations with respect to various claims (e.g., independent claims 64, 68, 73, 89, and 94) such that the solutions taught by both Shiramizu (i.e., alleged by the Examiner to be a 1:1:6 ratio solution) and Nakano (i.e., alleged by the Examiner to be a 1:1:10 ratio solution) are clearly outside of the ranges claimed. As such, claims 64-65, 67-76, 89-90, and 92-95 which include such amended range end limitations, directly or indirectly, are not obvious based on Nakano and Shiramizu as such references do not describe or teach all the claim limitations.

Further, this rejection is moot with respect to claims 77-88 and 91 which have been canceled.

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Summary

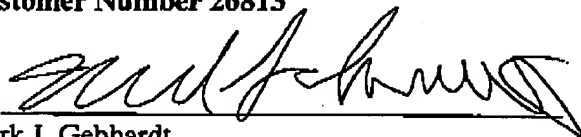
It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representatives, at the below-listed telephone number, if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted for
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7 Aug 2003

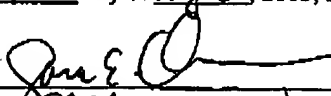
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8:

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper is being transmitted by facsimile in accordance with 37 CFR §1.6(d) to the Patent and Trademark Office, addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop RCE, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 7th day of August, 2003, at 3:05 pm (Central Time).

By:

Name:


SARA E. OLSON